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couple of ships of the line, a frigate, and a steamer, should be stationed at its mouth ; and with no larger force than this, might the egress of any vessel be prevented from the interior seas ; and not only so, but, as these four men-of-war would constitute, in the eyes of all foreign powers, and according to the law of nations, a sufficient blockade, they would deprive Constantinople and the whole Turkish empire of all foreign trade ; besides shutting out from the commerce of the Mediterranean Sea, and the rest of the world, the entire coast of the Euxine, and its thousands of miles of tributary rivers. If we now transfer our attention to the northern portions of the Russian Empire, we shall find that the passage of the Sound, which all the trade of the Baltic is compelled to pass, is scarcely less narrow than that of the Hellespont ; and, provided Russia had gained possession of the interior of these straits according to the supposition of the alarmist, then half a dozen ships of war might hermetically seal the whole of northern Europe against the trade of the world. In short, Russia, with the addition of Turkey, would possess but two outlets, each more contracted than the river Thames at Tilbury Fort ; and, as these could be declared in a lawful blockade by less than a dozen vessels of war, it is clear that nature herself has doomed Russia to be in a condition of the most abject and prostrate subjection to the will of the maritime powers. This is a point of paramount importance in estimating the future growth of the country under consideration. It should never be lost sight of for a moment, in arguing upon the subject, that Russia, in possession of Turkey and all the coasts of the Black Sea, besides her present stupendous expanse of territory, would still be denied, by the hand of nature herself, a navigation of more than three miles in width, to connect her millions of square leagues of territory with the rest of the globe—a peculiarity the more striking since it could not be found to exist in any other quarter of the earth. It is deserving of notice, that these two narrow straits which guard the entrances to the Black Sea, and the Baltic, are nearly six months sail distant from each other ; and the track by which alone they can communicate lying through the Straits of Dover and Gibraltar, it must be apparent that, were Russia mistress of these channels, she could not pass from one to the other, unless she were in amicable connection with Great Britain.

ITEMS ON FILLIBUSTERISM.

There is in our country a vast amount of the war spirit, asleep now in the repose of a most prosperous peace, but eager enough to be roused, and likely, when roused in earnest, to become well nigh uncontrollable, and to plunge our rulers into such wars as no man of sense or self-respect could justify on any principles. The lowest type of this spirit, found among the dregs of society, reckless politicians, and their rowdyish adherents, has got the name of *Fillibusterism* ; a vulgar, outlandish term, borrowed from buccaneers and brigands, but well fitted to designate the men and the measures it represents, and to foreshadow the lawless, infamous career to which it would fain lure or bully our government. We quote a specimen or two :—

THE SPIRIT AND PRINCIPLES OF FILLIBUSTERISM.—“The reigns of royal lines,” says one of our fillibustering editors “must be bled until blood runs like rivers through the kingdoms. Robespierre once exclaimed, ‘alas, there is no hope for my unhappy country, until the last drop of blood is emptied from the veins of the nobility.’ The same truth applies to nearly all Europe of the present day. Those who are afraid of shedding blood, may fold their arms, and content themselves to see the people crushed forever under the wheels of tyranny. The machinery of civilization is so entirely physical, brute

force is so completely the European power, that the only hope of emancipation is in the doctrine of Robespierre—of blood, blood."

"If we had," says another editor of the same school in politics and morals, "an Administration animated by the right spirit, steps would soon be taken to place Mexico in a new position. An efficient army would be marched to her frontiers; and on the peaceable and well disposed among the people signifying their desire for our intervention and protection, that army would be marched into the country, security to life and property proclaimed, civil war suppressed, and a Provisional Government established, so as to permit a formal and legitimate recognition of the Protectorate of the United States. In this way should we prepare the country for ultimate incorporation with our own Republic."

Well does another editor, of a very different stamp, remark on such exhibitions. "It is painfully apparent, even to a casual observer, that this red-republicanism—this thirst for "*blood, blood!*" is growing bold in the United States. Whence it comes, and how it grows, it would not be difficult to tell; but that is not our present purpose. The evil is upon us. It has taken root. It already puts forth blossoms. It will bear sanguineous fruit in due time, if the breath of public opinion does not scatter the blossoms, and destroy the germ. The doctrine itself meets not with that *universal* execration that would once have greeted it. This cannot be denied; the proof is abundant."

A REBUKE OF FILLIBUSTERISM FROM THE RIGHT QUARTER.—The South has been supposed to be specially interested in the ultimate aims of fillibusterism; and hence it is peculiarly gratifying to hear a Southern statesman utter against it so bold and noble a protest as we find in the following extracts from a speech of Mr. VENABLE, of N.C., in the last Congress:

"We cannot be insensible to the spirit of propagandism which deeply affects a portion of the people. If it be either encouraged or fostered by the Government, if it pass without rebuke, if it be not repressed, our people must come to be considered the brigands of the world, going forth to seize upon the possessions of adjoining nations, and, as a natural consequence, concentrate upon us the focus of indignation and ill-will of all the world. This ought to be so. The individual whose grasping disposition, whose insatiable rapacity, leading him to oppress the poor, and overreach the feeble, may acquire property; but the end will be disastrous. There is but one code of morals for all; the principles of justice are eternal. Observation as well as experience, passing events as well as the records of the past, have been but little heeded, if this lesson has not been learned.

"I admit no party ties or allegiance which would cause me to acknowledge that to be politically right, which is morally wrong. I expect to keep company with my conscience long after political relations shall cease.

"In this matter, Mr. Chairman, as in all others, I mean to recognize the obligations which rest upon a Christian statesman. I am always pleased to derive light from a source where error has never thrown its cloud—where truth shines upon the page, and gives out a light which cannot mislead. We are taught by all history, human and divine, that the punishment of nations as such is in this world, because they exist only here. Populous countries, great empires, once the wonder of the world, have filled the measure of their iniquities, of rapine and oppression, and live only in tradition, or as beacons on the shores of the tide of time. They have perished for the violation of the great principles of justice, the victims of their own accumulated crimes. The disregard of physical laws brings immediate punishment to the offender; the violation of moral laws, although long delayed, is not the less certain. Nations as well as individuals are subjected to the same results, and with equal certainty.

"I have already said that our Maker punishes nations in this world, because they exist only here. Man's individuality exists forever. Nations are of this world alone. Their rise and their decay are not accidental. Virtue produces the one, and crime and vice the other. Ages intervene, until the cup of iniquity is full. The kindled wrath of heaven sends forth the fire of desolation to sweep them away. Countries which thousands of years ago were filled with a dense population, rich in teeming abundance, whose merchants were princes, and whose citizens lords of the earth, are now barren wastes; their ruined capitals the theatre for antiquarian research; their inhabitants wandering tribes, with whom the knowledge of former grandeur is so diluted with fable as only to mislead the inquirer.

"No just man can for a moment tolerate the monstrous wickedness of a war of conquest—war, the greatest temporal evil, except national dishonor, and never justifiable except as the ultimate resort. War, if unjust, is the greatest crime which stains the world."

MISCELLANEOUS.

JEFFERSON'S VIEW OF WAR.—Under date of June 1, 1822, when Russia was on the event of war with Turkey, Thomas Jefferson, then 82 years old, wrote to John Adams who was 90, as follows:—"It seems that the Cannibals of Europe are going to eat one another again. A war between Russia and Turkey is like the battle of the kite and snake; whichever destroys the other, leaves a destroyer less for the world. This pugnacious humor of mankind seems to be the law of his nature; one of the obstacles to too great multiplication, provided in the mechanism of the Universe. The cocks of the hen-yard kill one another; bears, bulls, rams, do the same, and the horse in his wild state kills all the young males, until, worn down with age and war, some vigorous youth kills him. * * * * *I hope we shall prove how much happier for man the Quaker policy is, and that the life of the feeder is better than that of the fighter.* And it is some consolation that the desolation by these maniacs of one part of the earth, is the means of improving it in the other part. Let the latter be our office, and let us milk the cow while the Russian holds her by the horns, and Turk by the tail."

RECOIL OF WRONG EFFORTS FOR LIBERTY.—Spasmodic struggles in Europe, as elsewhere, for freedom by means of the sword, have resulted for the most part in still worse forms of oppression. "The excesses of the revolutionists in Germany, the speculations of socialists and communists in France, the failure of the provisional republican government to re-establish order and security, all these together have excited apprehensions which could be allayed only by the prospect of having a *very strong* government in France."

WAR NOT A MEANS OF SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.—All hope of improving the general condition of humanity by war, or violent convulsive movements among the people, seems to be abandoned. The first is, as Mr. Jefferson described it, "the unprofitable contest to see which can do the other the most harm;" and the latter have often disappointed the best hopes of humanity, from the utter incompetency of a people, long enslaved by civil and ecclesiastical tyrants, to adopt and execute a republican form of government. The very name of law is, with such a population, associated with tyranny; and liberty is a license to act without restraint. Hence it is that, when the common security of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" demands the cessation of anarchy, the unhappy people can conceive of no means of deliverance but to take refuge in despotism. In a country long debased by